(f) if not, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLAI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f). India's total exports to the Gulf countries (6 GCC countries viz. Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia & UAE) during the past 3 years have been increasing. During 1994-95, exports increased by 2.3% over the previous year; the increase in 1995-96 was 19% over 1994-95 figures; export growth in 1996-97 has been over 36% during the first quarter when compared with last year.

India's export in textiles garments, plastic & rubber sectors, the position during last 3 years exports to Gulf is as under:-

(Rs. in crores)

Item	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Textiles	864.83	1041.59	1201.96
Garments	574.03	459.72	552.20
Plastics	258.72	292.06	268.89
Rubber	94.04	128.74	196.13

Export of garments declined in 1994-95 to the extent of 19.9% over 1993-94 figures, but picked up in 1995-96. In the plastic sector exports marginally declined by 7.90% in 1995-96 compared with 1994-95. In other cases export growth has ranged from 12% to 50% over the previous year. In sectors like textiles, garments, machinery, and electrical equipments, Chinese Exports to the gulf have reportedly grown at a faster pace. However, part of the goods sourced from China are, it is understood, re-exported from Hong Kong & Singapore. Chinese goods in turn are reportedly are exported from the Gulf to Iran, North Africa and East Africa. These factors and non availability of authentic data precludes a precise conclusion from an analysis of relative growth item by item.

However, steps are taken on continuous basis to increase our exports in competition to other countries. Some of these are as under:-

(i) Participation in International fairs and exhibitions;

(ii) ingraining competitiveness in manufacturer and product quality;

(iii) exchange of delegation both at official and business level to identify and expand opportunities and diversification of the export basket.

(iv) improve export facilitation.

Industries in Assam

4563. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:
DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted in the North Eastern States particularly in Assam for setting up of small, medium and heavy industries for the generation of employment;

(b) if so, the number of industries set up and started functioning during each of the last three years in private and public sector in the said States; and

(c) the details of industries given subsidy such as industry subsidy, transport subsidy and such other subsidies to generate employment in industries in the N.E. States?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Working results of Associate Banks of S.B.I.

4564. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of associate banks of State Bank of India as on date;

(b) the working results of each of the associate banks during each of the last three years;

(o) whether the Government propose to amalgamate all these banks; and

(d) if so, the time by which decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) At present there are seven Associate Banks of State Bank of India.

(b) The profit/losses of these banks, bank-wise, during the last three years, is furnished below:-

(Rupees in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	As on 31.3.94	As on 31.3.95	As on 31.3.96
1.	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	6.50	8.04	25.79
2.	State Bank of Hyderabad	24.48	43.60	50.00

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	As on 31.3.94	As on 31.3.95	As on 31.3.95
3.	State Bank of Indore	3.65	9.09	12.08
4.	State Bank of Mysore	2.39	2.92	25.63
5.	State Bank of Patiala	29.14	32.64	52.14
6.	State Bank of Saurashtra	5.58	14.00	(-) 230.31
7.	State Bank of Travancore	9.34	20.70	26.20

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Export of Woollen Clothes

4565. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH.
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Wool and Woollen Export Promotion Council, New Delhi have formulated any programme for earning more foreign exchange by the export of readymade Woollen garments during the year 1996-97; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The Wool and Woollens Export Promotion Council has not formulated any special programme for increasing the exports of readymade woollen garments during the year 1996-97. However, in order to step up the exports of woollen textiles and clothing, including readymade garments, the Council is planning to participate in fairs/exhibitions to be held in Switzerland, Hongkong, Canada and Brazil during the current year.

[English]

Capital Investment in Public Sector

4566. SHRI O.P. JINDAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the return of capital investment made by the Government in Public Sector Undertakings is extremely low;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase returns on investment made in the public sector?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b). The return of capital investment made by Government in public sector undertakings is low but it has increased during the last three years from 2% in 1991-92 to 2.33% in 1992-93 and further increased to 2.84% in 1993-94 and 4.47% in 1994-95.

(c) The steps being taken to improve the performance of PSUs and thereby increase returns on investment are enterprise specific. However, some of the steps taken by the Government include professionalisation of PSU Boards, reference of sick PSUs to BIFR for revival/rehabilitation, rationalisation of labour force, signing of MOU, technology upgradation, restructuring with the objective by improving their efficiency, productivity and profitability.

Amendment in Indian Coffee Act, 1942

4567. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representations from various coffee growers associations for amendment or even scrapping of the Coffee Act, 1942;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The United Planters Association of South India (UPASI), Coonoor, have submitted a set of proposals for amendments of various provisions of the Coffee Act, deletion of some provisions of the Coffee Act and addition of new provisions to Coffee Act. The main thrust of the amendments proposed by UPASI are:

(i) The Coffee Board should be more development and promotion oriented than control oriented;

(ii) The Coffee Board should have a small and compact Board of 17 Members:

(iii) Removal of quota system and to make the pooling of Coffee with the Board optional;

(iv) Retention of provisions of pooling for sake of small growers;

(v) Purchase of the coffee by the Board and thereby indulging in trading activities;

(vi) Removal of controls like licencing of the curing works and issue of permit to exporters: